Message Text

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2.1

ACTION AGR-20

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 DRC-01 RSC-01 /045 W

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R 280131Z MAR 74 FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0859

UNCLAS TOKYO 4029

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, JA

SUBJECT: BEEF IMPORT SUSPENSION

REF; (A) FASTO 156 (B) STATE 056709 (C) STATE 44938

1. DURING WEEK MARCH 8-14, TOKYO WHOLESALE PRICES OF MIDDLE GRADE DAIRY BEEF RANGED YEN 736 TO 899 CLOSING WEEK AT YEN 747. TOP GRADE PORK PRICES RANGED FROM YEN 471 TO 499 WHICH WAS PRICE ON FRIDAY.

2. CURRENTLY NEWSPAPERS INDICATING GOJ DELIBERATION ON SUPPORT LEVELS FOR LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS. NOTE THAT BECAUSE OF HIGH FEED PRICES AND PRICES FOR LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS. FARMER HAVE BEEN FORCED TO SELL HOGS AND CATTLE FOR SLAUGHTER. WEAKER PRICE FOR BEEF SEEN ABOVE MAY INDICATE LARGER SLAUGHTER. (FEBRUARY SLAUGHTER FIGURES NOTAVAILABLE UNTIL BEGINNING NEXT WEEK.) ALSO DETERIORATION OF BEEF COMING FROM STOCKS WHICH WAS IMPORTED CHILLED, FROZEN TO STORE AND NOW BEING THAWED AND SOLD FRESH MAY ACCOUNT FOR PORTION. RE REF B. INFORMATION NOTED REF C WAS DISCUSSED WITH MAF OFFICIALS. THEY INDIATED UNDERSTANDING OF SITUATION IN U.S. AND REQUESTED OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR NEED TO TAKE MEASURES TO RAISE WHOLESALE PRICE FOR BEEF TO PROTECT CALF-RAISERS AND FEEDERS. IT WAS NOTED THAT MAF'S PROGRAMS TO ENTICE FARMERS INTO CATTLE-RAISING SUPPORTED INDIRECTLY BY USDA/FAS COOPERATOR PROGRAMS. THEY INDICATED THAT WHEN PRICES STRENGTHENED, IMPORTS WOULD INCREASE. FEBRUARY IMPORTS SHOW 8,400 MT IMPORTED, OF WHICH 1,825 MT CAME FROM U.S. WHILE 40,000 MT NOTED AS NOT BEING IMPORTED BY LIPC, MAF UNCLASSIFIED

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NOTES THAT FIGURE SOMEWHAT SMALLER THAN THIS.

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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: LIVESTOCK, IMPORTS, IMPORT QUOTAS, PRICES

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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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